

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 955

Introduced by Assembly Member Mathis

February 26, 2015

An act to ~~amend Section 8680.3 of~~ *add Section 8687.77 to the* Government Code, relating to disaster assistance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 955, as amended, Mathis. Disaster ~~assistance:~~ *assistance: droughts: temporary assistance.*

Existing law, the California Disaster Assistance Act, authorizes the Office of Emergency Services to establish a model process that would be made available to assist a community in recovering from an emergency proclaimed by the Governor and would provide that the process may consider, among other things, the role of the office to facilitate the use of temporary services, including, but not limited to, the provision of potable water.

This bill would additionally authorize the office to establish a model process to address the effects of a drought by providing temporary water supplies for drinking and sanitation to property owners. The bill would require the process to consider, among other things, the role of the office in providing temporary water supplies for drinking and sanitation to property owners, and to include provisions that would allow for temporary assistance to property owners whose income exceed a threshold established by the office, as specified.

~~Existing law, the California Disaster Assistance Act, defines the term “disaster” for its purposes as a fire, flood, storm, tidal wave, earthquake,~~

terrorism, epidemic, or other similar public calamity that the Governor determines presents a threat to public safety.

~~This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to this provision.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 8687.77 is added to the Government Code,
2 to read:

3 8687.77. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following
4 shall apply:

5 (1) "Property owner" means the owner of a home, rental
6 housing, multifamily housing, or small business.

7 (2) "Small business" means a business with 25 or few
8 employees.

9 (3) "Water supplies" means the purchase and installation of
10 water storage tanks and associated plumbing and the provision
11 of water deliveries for drinking and sanitation.

12 (b) In addition to any model process established by the Office
13 of Emergency Services to assist a community pursuant to Section
14 8687.7, the office may also establish a model process to address
15 the effects of a drought by providing temporary water supplies for
16 drinking and sanitation to property owners consistent with this
17 section.

18 (c) The model process shall consist of the following:

19 (1) The role of the office in providing temporary water supplies
20 for drinking and sanitation to property owners, including any
21 collaboration efforts with a local agency or non-profit
22 organization.

23 (2) The establishment of income thresholds above which the
24 office determines a property owner has adequate resources to
25 remedy the water quality or water supply problem without
26 temporary assistance from the state.

27 (3) For instances where the property owner's income exceeds
28 the threshold established in paragraph (2):

29 (A) A provision that allows for temporary assistance to be
30 provided if the property owner agrees to reimburse the full cost
31 of that temporary assistance.

1 (B) For instances where the property owner demonstrates that
2 the owner cannot afford to reimburse the full cost of that temporary
3 assistance, a provision that allows the office to provide a loan to
4 the property owner to cover those temporary assistance costs with
5 an interest rate that does not exceed 1 percent. The loans shall be
6 made from any moneys appropriated by the Legislature to the
7 office.

8 (C) The method of reimbursement or repayment of any loan,
9 including the period for reimbursement or repayment, consistent
10 with the property owner's ability to repay.

11 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as compelling a
12 property owner to accept any assistance offered by a model process
13 established pursuant to this section.

14 (e) The recipient of any assistance received pursuant to a model
15 process established pursuant to this section shall agree to hold
16 the state harmless from any damages due to that assistance.

17 (f) The office may adopt as an emergency regulation, in
18 accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340)
19 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, any
20 regulation it determines is necessary to carry out the purposes of
21 this section.

22 ~~SECTION 1. Section 8680.3 of the Government Code is~~
23 ~~amended to read:~~

24 ~~8680.3. "Disaster" means a fire, flood, storm, tidal wave,~~
25 ~~earthquake, terrorism, epidemic, or any other similar public~~
26 ~~calamity that the Governor determines presents a threat to public~~
27 ~~safety.~~